

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A method of configuring an electronic device, wherein the method comprises:
2 receiving device configuration information from a user;
3 storing the device configuration information into an online database; and
4 providing device configuration information from the database to the electronic device.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the electronic device is designed for residential use.
- 1 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the electronic device is a digital audio recorder.
- 1 4. The method of claim 1, wherein the electronic device is one of a set consisting of: alarm
2 clocks, answering machines, audio electronics, multimedia electronics, home management
3 systems, security systems, and sprinkler systems.
- 1 5. The method of claim 1, wherein the electronic device is a white good.
- 1 6. The method of claim 1, wherein said act of providing device configuration information to
2 the electronic device is performed in response to:
3 receiving a synchronization request from the electronic device.
- 1 7. The method of claim 6, wherein the synchronization request includes a serial number of the
2 electronic device.

1 8. The method of claim 7, wherein the synchronization request further includes an indication
2 of whether any configuration changes have been made on the electronic device since a previous
3 synchronization.

1 9. The method of claim 7, wherein the synchronization request further includes any
2 configuration changes that have been made on the electronic device since a previous
3 synchronization.

1 10. The method of claim 9, further comprising:
2 after receiving any configuration changes from the electronic device, updating the
3 configuration information of the device in the database.

1 11. The method of claim 10, wherein if any configuration changes from the electronic device
2 conflict with configuration information provided by the user since the previous synchronization,
3 priority is given to whichever changes were most recently made.

1 12. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
2 periodically servicing an account associated with the electronic device, wherein the
3 servicing includes:
4 determining if alternate resources are enabled, and if so, updating the device
5 configuration information in the online database in accordance with
6 information obtained from the alternate resources.

1 13. The method of claim 12, wherein the alternate resources include one of the set consisting
2 of: news subscriptions, weather, personalized traffic information, financial markets, financial
3 portfolio information, and television listings.

1 14. The method of claim 12, wherein said act of updating the device configuration information
2 includes changing a configuration value previously set by the user.

1 15. The method of claim 14, wherein the configuration value is a wakeup time.

1 16. The method of claim 1, wherein the device configuration information includes song
2 playlists.

1 17. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
2 before said act of receiving device configuration information from the user,
3 receiving an initial communication from the electronic device; and
4 creating an account in the online database associated with the electronic device.

1 18. The method of claim 17, wherein the initial communication includes a device serial
2 number.

1 19. The method of claim 18, wherein the initial communication further includes an initial
2 password.

1 20. A device configuration system that comprises:
2 a network;
3 one or more servers coupled to the network and configured to provide an online service,
4 wherein the service includes:
5 providing a web page interface featuring a home page for an electronic device
6 owned by a user;
7 receiving device configuration information from the user via the interface;
8 storing the device configuration information into an online database; and
9 providing device configuration information from the database to the electronic
10 device.

1 21. The system of claim 20, wherein the electronic device is a digital audio recorder.

1 22. The system of claim 20, wherein the electronic device is one of a set consisting of: alarm
2 clocks, answering machines, audio electronics, multimedia electronics, home management
3 systems, security systems, and sprinkler systems.

1 23. The system of claim 20, wherein said providing device configuration information to the
2 electronic device is performed in response to:
3 receiving a synchronization request from the electronic device.

1 24. The system of claim 23, wherein the synchronization request includes a serial number of
2 the electronic device.

1 25. The system of claim 24, wherein the synchronization request further includes any
2 configuration changes that have been made on the electronic device since a previous
3 synchronization.

1 26. The system of claim 20, wherein the service further includes:
2 periodically servicing an account associated with the electronic device, wherein the
3 servicing includes:
4 determining if alternate resources are enabled, and if so, updating the device
5 configuration information in the online database in accordance with
6 information obtained from the alternate resources.

1 27. The system of claim 26, wherein the alternate resources include one of the set consisting of:
2 news subscriptions, weather, personalized traffic information, financial markets, financial portfolio
3 information, and television listings.

1 28. The system of claim 26, wherein said updating the device configuration information
2 includes changing a configuration value previously set by the user.

1 29. The system of claim 28, wherein the configuration value is a wakeup time.

1 30. The system of claim 20, wherein the device configuration information includes song
2 playlists.

1 31. The system of claim 20, wherein the service further includes:
2 before said receiving device configuration information from the user,
3 receiving an initial communication from the electronic device; and
4 creating an account in the online database associated with the electronic device.

1 32. The system of claim 31, wherein the initial communication includes a device serial number.

1 33. The system of claim 31, wherein the initial communication further includes an initial
2 password generated by the electronic device.